



**Minutes
Parkminster United Church
COVID-19 Working Group**

**Thursday April 7, 2022 – 6:30 pm
via Zoom Video Conferencing**

God is calling us to be an evolving community of faith inspired to embrace our future as we:

- *Deepen our commitment to each other*
- *Nurture our spiritual vitality and growth*
- *Live a life of loving influence in the world*

Working Group Members

Rev. Heather Power	Rev. Joe Gaspar	Sue MacQueen – Secretary
Jennifer Allan – Chair	Jeanne Foster – M&P	Bert Blackburn – COVID-19 WG
Kathy Shortt – Past Chair	Wendy Ridgway – COVID-19 WG	
Regrets		
Franceen Wagner – COVID-19 WG	Barb Leask – COVID-19 WG	

1) Welcome – Jennifer Allan

2) Opening Prayer & Lighting of Candle - Rev. Joe

3) Approval of Agenda – Jennifer

Motion: THAT the Agenda be approved. Moved by Bert Blackburn; seconded by Jeanne Foster; passed.

4) Approval of Minutes – Jennifer

Motion: THAT the Minutes of March 2, 2022 be approved. Moved by Bert Blackburn; seconded by Jeanne Foster; passed.

5) Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Changes to the safety plan: discussion regarding the document ‘Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church’ and which changes could be implemented at this time. There was some concern raised regarding the current sixth wave of COVID. Masking, vaccination and self pre-screening will be continued, and this will be revisited at our next meeting. We strongly recommend that if anyone is feeling unwell, they should not attend in-person worship, and join virtually instead.

ACTION: Jennifer to include this messaging about feeling unwell in What’s Up.

i) Checklist ‘Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church’ included as Appendix 1.

Motion: THAT the COVID-19 WG recommend to Council that our Worship Safety Plan be changed to allow for:

- i. **Candle Lighter**
- ii. **No specific physical distancing** (although this will continue to be encouraged)
- iii. **Access to coat racks**
- iv. **Increased elevator capacity**
- v. **Increased family worship space capacity**
- vi. **No out of bounds areas**



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Moved by Bert Blackburn; seconded by Kathy Shortt; **passed**.

Action Item: Jennifer to work with Kathy and the Communications team to update the safety plan

- ii) Church Group / Tenant Safety Plans: There was discussion regarding the need for PUC to monitor safety plans considering the dropping of provincial masking and vaccine mandates. There was concern expressed about the amount of work to monitor the plans and about keeping our staff safe when groups are in the building.

Motion: THAT we continue to request tenants/church groups to submit their own safety plans which are compliant with Public Health measures and which will be kept on file at Parkminster. Moved by Bert Blackburn; seconded by Jeanne Foster; **passed**.

Action Item: Jennifer to follow up with Melanie who will advise tenants/church groups of this requirement

(b) Masks for Weddings

Questions from the Mutton family regarding Laura Mutton's wedding on April 9, 2022 and whether the wedding party would be required to wear masks. Guests would be masked. Discussion ensued.

Motion: THAT the COVID-19 WG recommends to Council that the Mutton wedding party will not be required to wear masks while processing and recessing up and down the aisle, while standing at the front of the sanctuary, or when photos are being taken at the front of the sanctuary or in the Family Room. Moved by Wendy Ridgway; seconded by Bert Blackburn; **passed**.

Action Item: Jennifer to contact Council to vote on this via email as the wedding is in 2 days and will advise Shelley Mutton of the vote outcome.

- 6) **Any Other Business:** Discussion regarding how our members feel about the need to be vaccinated to attend Church and whether they would be comfortable attending if this requirement were to be dropped.

Action Item: All WG members to consider discussing this with other congregants to obtain feedback which will inform our discussion in May.

7) **Closing Prayer - Rev. Heather**

8) **Next Meeting**

Thursday May 4th – 6:30 pm

9) **Appendix**

- 1. Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church

Appendix 1

Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church

As we determine we are comfortable allowing these changes we can indicate the date and notes on any process/procedure/communication that is required.

Worship Safety Plan

Allowing	When approved at WG	When approved at Council
Entry without checking in for contact tracing	March 2/22	March 15/22
Group responses	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person announcements	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person Welcome Statement	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person readings (masked when not reading)	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person joys and concerns from pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Hymnals in pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Bibles in pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Congregational singing with masks	March 2/22	March 15/22
Youth programs in church	March 2/22	March 15/22
Name tags	March 2/22	March 15/22
Hugging with discretion and permission	April 7/22	
Handshaking with discretion and permission	April 7/22	
Candle lighter	April 7/22	
No explicit physical distancing but continue to encourage	April 7/22	
Coat racks	April 7/22	
No capacity limits in elevator	April 7/22	
No out of bounds areas	April 7/22	
Increased family worship space capacity	April 7/22	
Entry without double-vaccination		
Entry without pre-screening (encourage i		
Entry without mask wearing		
Passing the peace with handshake		
Paper bulletins provided		
Passed offering plate		
Choral singing with masks		
Choral singing without masks		
Congregational singing without masks		
Soloists without screens		
Water fountains		
Closed windows		
Fans on		
Children's programs in church – Sunday School		
Coffee-hour in church		

Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church

Church Group ¹/ Tenant ²Safety Plans

As of April 7, 2022, Parkminster will require Church Groups and Tenants to submit their own safety plans in compliance of Public Health Measures. These safety plans will be kept on file at Parkminster.

Allowing	When approved at WG
Eating together (if physical distancing is maintained)	Dec 8/21
Entry without checking in for contact tracing	March 2, 2022
No physical distancing	April 7, 2022 As per Public Health Guidelines
No capacity limits	April 7, 2022 As per Public Health Guidelines
Entry without double-vaccination	April 7, 2022 As per Public Health Guidelines
Entry without pre-screening	April 7, 2022 As per Public Health Guidelines
Entry without mask wearing	April 7, 2022 As per Public Health Guidelines
Undesignated washroom	
Open windows	
Fans on	
Water fountains	

¹ Includes Parkminster sponsored outside non-paying groups (e.g., Gay Men's Social Network, ACCKWA)

² Includes paying tenants (e.g., Karate, Artshine, Mindful Makers, ALUID School)